

1 Kings 8:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

Analysis

And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of dedication of the temple, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy. The sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

Historical Context

First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of

peace and prosperity.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the temple as God's dwelling place help us understand Christ's incarnation and the church as God's temple today?
2. What does Solomon's prayer and dedication teach about approaching God in worship and prayer?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

בְּכָל זֹת יְיָה יְהוָה	בְּכָל	זֹת	יְיָה	יְהוָה	שָׁלֵם	ה	אֵל	לְהַתְפִּلָּל	אֵל
H1961	had made an end				And it was so that when Solomon			of praying	H413
	H3615				H8010			H6419	
וְהַתְחִזֵּה הַתְפִלָּה וְהַקְרִיב אֵל אֵת	וְהַתְחִזֵּה	הַתְפִלָּה	וְהַקְרִיב	אֵל	אֵת	וְהַזְמִין	וְהַזְמִין	וְהַזְמִין	
of the LORD	H853	H3605	all this prayer			and supplication	H2063	he arose	H6965
	H3068		H8605			H8467			
מִלְפָגֵן יְהוָה מִזְבֵּחַ מִזְבֵּחַ עַל מִקְרָב עַל בָּרָךְ יְהוָה	מִלְפָגֵן	יְהוָה	מִזְבֵּחַ	מִזְבֵּחַ	עַל	מִקְרָב	עַל	בָּרָךְ	יְהוָה
from before			the altar	of the LORD		from kneeling	H5921	on his knees	
H6440		H4196		H3068		H3766		H1290	
וְיִכְפֶּה יְהוָה פָּרַשׁ וְתַחַזֵּה	וְיִכְפֶּה		וְתַחַזֵּה	פָּרַשׁ					
with his hands			spread up			to heaven			
H3709		H6566				H8064			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:45 (Prayer): And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

2 Chronicles 7:1 (Prayer): Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

Psalms 95:6 (References Lord): O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.